

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) An apparatus for mastopexy with augmentation, the apparatus comprising:

a vessel of an elastomeric material shaped as an outer covering of predetermined form and size to provide augmentation in a mastopexy procedure;

a filler to maintain a volume of the vessel;

the vessel, further comprising a back wall forming a surface for contact with tissue posterior thereto; ~~and~~

a plurality of ~~anchors extending substantially homogeneously from within and outwardly from the back wall of the vessel a distance selected to stabilize the anatomical position thereof and support gravitational loading thereon.~~ anchors, each anchor comprising a suture embedded within and to extend along the back wall and terminating at a first end spaced away from the back wall; and

a surgical needle connected to draw the first end of at least one anchor of the plurality of anchors.

2. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the filler is selected from the group consisting of water, saline, silicone, silicone gel, sugar, hydrogel, and a combination of two or more thereof.

3. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, ~~wherein the plurality of anchors is substantially homogeneous with the back wall~~ further comprising a protective covering surrounding the surgical needle to resist inadvertent puncture of the vessel.

4. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the elastomeric material is selected from the group consisting of a polymer, a reinforced polymer, an expanded polymer, and a combination of at least two thereof.

5. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the elastomeric material is a polymer.

6. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the polymer is a silicone compound.

7. (original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the silicone compound is dimethylsiloxane.

8. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the back wall comprises at least one embedded fiber.

9. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein at least two embedded fibers cross one another.

10. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the at least two fibers cross at substantially a right angle.

11. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the at least two fibers cross at an acute angle.

12. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the at least one embedded fiber runs in substantially a superior-inferior direction.

13. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the at least one embedded fiber runs in a substantially medial-lateral direction.

14. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the at least one embedded fiber extends diagonally with respect to a medial-lateral direction and a superior-inferior direction.

15-16. (cancelled)

17. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the plurality of anchors ~~include~~ comprises a first anchor located at extending substantially radially from the back wall in the direction of about the ten o'clock position and a second anchor extending substantially radially from the back wall in the direction of at about the two o'clock position ~~with respect to the back wall~~.

18. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the back wall is substantially ~~circular and the plurality of anchors comprises anchors located at about the ten o'clock, two o'clock, five o'clock, and seven o'clock positions with respect to the back wall~~ circular and absent tabs extending outwardly therefrom.

19-27. (cancelled)

28. (currently amended) An apparatus for mastopexy with augmentation, the apparatus comprising:

a vessel of an elastomeric material of predetermined form and size to provide augmentation in a mastopexy procedure, the vessel including a back wall for contact with tissue posterior thereto;

a filler to maintain a volume of the vessel; and

a plurality of ~~anchors~~ anchors, each anchor thereof ~~extending outwardly from the back wall of the vessel a distance selected to stabilize the anatomical position thereof and support gravitational loading thereon~~ comprising a suture embedded within the back wall and terminating at a first end extending outwardly from the back wall of the vessel; and

a surgical needle connected to draw the first end of at least one anchor of the plurality of anchors.

29. (currently amended) An apparatus for mastopexy with augmentation, the apparatus comprising:

a vessel comprising at least one wall formed of an elastomeric material to support augmentation through a mastopexy procedure;

a filler placed within the vessel to maintain a volume thereof; and

a plurality of ~~anchors each anchor thereof formed of non-elastomeric material and positioned to extend outwardly from within the at least one wall a distance selected to stabilize the anatomical position thereof and support gravitational loading thereon~~ sutures securing to the vessel substantially exclusively through embedment within the at least one wall and terminating at respective first ends extending outwardly from the at least one wall.

30. (new) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the back wall is substantially circular and absent protrusions thereof extending outwardly.

31. (new) The apparatus of claim 31, further comprising a protective covering surrounding the surgical needle to resist inadvertent puncture of the vessel.

32. (new) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the back wall is substantially circular, without tabs extending outwardly therefrom.